

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Regular Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, June 26, 2003
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Conference Room

I. Roll Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arthur, Chahal, Garcia, Iringan, Lind, Swiger
Commissioners/Alternates Absent: Downey, Grilli, Tsao
City Council Liaison Absent: Bob Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: Mike Mendizabal

II. Alternates No Alternates were seated.

III. Pledge Chair Garcia led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of May 22, 2003.

M/S: Swiger/Iringan Ayes: Arthur, Chahal, Garcia, Iringan, Swiger
Abstain: Lind

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the June 26, 2003 agenda.

M/S: Lind/Iringan Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Staff noted the following news articles and correspondence included in the agenda packet: 5/29/03 *Milpitas Post Milestones* article recognizing commission alternate Charlene Tsao; 5/22/03 *Milpitas Post Opinion* article supporting Milpitas/Dagupan Sister City Relationship; Sister Cities International (SCI) Annual Membership invoice for \$575 and 6/02/03 letter from Tim Honey, Executive Director; undated letter from same promoting additional contribution to SCI's Annual Fund 2003; 5/09/03 invite letter from St. Louis, MO, Mayor Francis G. Slay to Mayor Esteves for the 2003 SCI conference 7/23 – 26/03; Neighborhood Night Out (8/12/03) outline distributed by Al Garcia, Citizens Advisory Commission Chair, at the 5/22/03 commission meeting.

VII. Citizen's Forum

Jim and Elaina Lawson, addressed the commission about the Milpitas Alliance for the Arts and the Hillcrest Art in Your Park Project. Mrs. Lawson stated that there was a recent art unveiling at Murphy Park and the goal is have a piece of art in each park. An RFI was sent out to artists and three finalists were chosen. Mrs. Lawson showed art models of the three finalists to the commission. She distributed leaflets to the commission to obtain their feedback.

Mayor Esteves visited the commission and thanked them for their work. He stated that he is pleased that the commission is busy working on sister city relationships, which will generate more cultural activities.

VIII. Old Business

1. APPLICATION FOR SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP: TIANJIN, CHINA

Gisella Meng contacted Chair Garcia and asked to put a hold on the potential sister city relationship with Tianjin. Ms. Meng would like to visit the commission at a future date to be determined.

Motion to table this item until further notice.

M/S Swiger /Iringan Ayes: All

2. APPLICATION FOR SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP: HUIZHOU, CHINA

Francis Chien introduced Sean Young, the Chairman of the Silicon Valley Chinese American Association (SVCAA), who participated with the delegation that visited from Huizhou two years ago. Mr. Young reiterated that his organization has a good impression of Huizhou due to their high technology development similarities with Milpitas. Also, Mr. Young stated that the Chinese consulate supports this sister city relationship.

Peter Chen presented a twenty-five minute video about Huizhou.

Toby Yip, 285 Edgewater Drive, a Milpitas resident for ten years, stated that he supports the program.

Gunawan Ali-Santosa, 2290 Glenview Drive, is a member of the City's Telecommunication Commission. He supports the proposal and believes it represents excellent opportunities.

Chien: Answered Commissioner Chahal's question from the May commission meeting in which he wanted to know how many people live in one square kilometer. The answer is about 287.

Swiger: Asked how the different districts are set-up. Chien: In the U.S., a county essentially controls a city, whereas smaller cities in China are controlled by larger cities. Huizhou controls many smaller cities.

Swiger: Stated that there must be a wide variety of cultural things to see such as lakes, mountains, farms and other centers. He also asked about school structure. Young: Replied that the first six years are in elementary school, the next several years are lower middle school (like American junior high school), then three years higher middle school (similar to American high school), and finally, four years at a university.

Chair Garcia: Stated that Huizhou looks like a beautiful and wonderful city. Within Milpitas, who would be the people who would find host families and coordinate internships, etc. Chien: They plan to work with local residents who support the program. They could form a group to work on the student exchange programs. They will not be using public money, only private funds. He spoke with a contact at Milpitas High School who expressed interest in forming a club to work on this project.

Young: The SVCAA was formed in this area in 1987. The group is financially sound.

Arthur: Stated the need for long-term support, not just a one-time event. She wants to make sure there is sufficient citizen support. Young: Their organization is interested in a long-term commitment. This is the

first time SVCAA has participated in this type of program and they are very excited about it. Yip: He spoke to neighbors about hosting students and they showed interest.

Chahal: Asked how many different dialects are in Huizhou. Young: There is a huge diversity in Huizhou, with a variety of dialects.

Yip: Presented ideas about Huizhou culture and interests and possible sister city activities. Some cultural experiences could include: "Huizhou Food Week", Friendship Logo (could design to represent relationship, with a Milpitas & Huizhou artist), dancing class (U.S. students could teach hip-hop, etc.), book exchange, visit places of worship (several older temples), a calligraphy show, and Chinese folk and classical music. Huizhou also has many small villages to visit.

Swiger: Asked about the visa requirements. Yip: U.S. citizens can go to the Chinese consulate to obtain visas. It is a very easy and quick process.

Arthur: Recognized their effort. Stated that they have presented an in-depth outline, which cannot be accomplished in one year, however pieces of it can be worked on.

Garcia: Asked if they are proposing to develop a separate support group from SVCAA - or would SVCAA be the people who make the calls and do the work for student exchanges. Chien: Does not believe that one association can carry out all of the tasks, but they could be a catalyst and get the program running. They would also make sure that it continues and would find local residents that can work on the program.

Garcia: From her experience, they really need to have an organization formed before the relationship starts. To keep it alive, it's important to have the framework from the beginning. She would like to see a group of citizens who are willing to be the contacts, make the phone calls and coordinate events as this is a large undertaking. Chien: Believes they are ready for that type of commitment.

Swiger: Noted to the Huizhou representatives that there is a Dagupan City Association., which is a local group who supports their own sister city relationship with Milpitas. He is also concerned about ongoing support, not just a jumpstart. Young: If approved, they will form a small workgroup to begin the process. Iringan: Would like to see local support. Arthur: Stressed the need to make sure there is a long-term commitment.

Chien: Requesting that the commission make a recommendation to the City Council for a sister city relationship at some point soon.

By consensus, the commission carried this item to the July agenda to consider the request.

3. DAGUPAN RELATIONSHIP: SCC POINT OF CONTACT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Commissioner Iringan volunteered to be the main contact between the commission and Dagupan City Association of Northern California, Inc. Association Chairpersons Ramon Aoanan and Evelyn Ramirez were present, along with Romy Manuel who is the point of contact for the City of Dagupan.

Aoanan: Asked questions about communication. Iringan: Stated that he is the point of contact and needs to be copied on all correspondence.

Swiger: Requested a letter providing contact names and information.

Garcia and Iringan requested that staff draft a contact sheet to distribute once the information is received.

Swiger: Suggested that they keep a log of events for later review purposes. The Dagupan representatives accepted this request.

By consensus, the commission decided to leave this item on the agenda as an ongoing item.

4. REPORT: ONE-YEAR EXTENSION, MILPITAS/TSUKUBA MOU, AUG. 2003 – AUG. 2004

Chair Garcia reported that City Council approved the final draft of the MOU at its June 3, 2003 session. She directed staff to post the final MOU on the City of Milpitas website.

By consensus, the commission decided to leave this item on the agenda as an ongoing item.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

X. Future Agenda Items

1. Determine 2003 and/or 2004 sessions to plan Milpitas/Tsukuba cultural exchanges (July)
2. Application for Sister Cities Relationship: Huizhou, China (July)
3. Dagupan Relationship: SCC Point of Contact & Additional Info (July)
4. Application for Sister Cities Relationship: Tianjin, China (TBA)
5. General calendar/procedures checklist for preparing cultural exchanges (TBA)
6. Discussion with Sister City Association representative (TBA)

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed with the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, July 24, 2003.

M/S Chahal / Iringan Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary